

designate September 2009 as Gospel Music Heritage Month and honor gospel music for its valuable and longstanding contributions to the culture of the United States. Gospel music is an American art form that has spanned hundreds of generations and its musical roots can be heard throughout many musical genres that we love today. It is important that we recognize and celebrate the vital role gospel music has had on music history. For this reason, I ask that you join me in supporting my resolution expressing support for designating September 2009 as "Gospel Music Heritage Month," honoring gospel music for its valuable long-standing contributions to American culture. I would also like to thank the 6 co-sponsors who have seen fit to honor our gospel music heritage.

The history of gospel music can be traced back to African American spirituals that blended diverse elements from African music, melodic influences from Irish folk songs and hymns, and ultimately borrowed from other uniquely American musical styles including ragtime, jazz, and blues.

The influence of gospel music can be found infused in all forms of secular music, from rock & roll, country, soul, R&B, and countless other styles. The legacy of gospel music includes some of the most memorable voices and pioneers in American history, such as Thomas Dorsey, Mahalia Jackson, James Vaughan, Roberta Martin, and many more. Gospel music has laid down the musical foundation for legendary recording artists such as Elvis Presley, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Buddy Holly, Whitney Houston, Ray Charles, Dolly Parton, Mariah Carey, Bob Dylan, and Randy Travis.

Gospel music has had an overwhelming influence on American culture and this bill recognizes gospel music's contributions by celebrating the rich heritage of gospel music and its artists in the month of September, 2009.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill as we move it to the floor for a vote.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

#### SUPPORTING GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 513) supporting the goals and purpose of Gold Star Mothers Day, which is observed on the last Sunday in September of each year in remembrance of the supreme sacrifice made by mothers who lose a son or daughter serving in the Armed Forces, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 513

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers have suffered the supreme sacrifice of motherhood by losing a son or daughter who

served in the Armed Forces, and thus perpetuate the memory of all whose lives are sacrificed in war;

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers assist veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs and aid members of the Armed Forces who served and died or were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities;

Whereas the services rendered to the United States by the mothers of America have strengthened and inspired Americans throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas Americans honor themselves and the mothers of America when they revere and emphasize the role of the home and the family as the true foundations of the United States;

Whereas by doing so much for the home, the American mother is a source of moral and spiritual guidance for the people of the United States and thus acts as a positive force to promote good government and peace among all mankind; and

Whereas the last Sunday in September, which in 2009 is September 27, is observed as Gold Star Mothers Day: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and purpose of Gold Star Mothers Day, which is observed in remembrance of the supreme sacrifice made by mothers who lose a son or daughter serving in the Armed Forces; and

(2) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Mothers Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measures just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

#### ATTEMPTS TO DERAIL HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, when our friends on the other side of the aisle decide in advance to oppose any health care reform bill, they're putting politics ahead of the needs of the American people.

Guaranteeing coverage for pre-existing conditions, which affect 45 percent of insured Americans, they're against it. Closing the prescription drug doughnut hole for seniors, they're against it. Protecting families from the cost of catastrophic illness, they're against it. Half a trillion in Medicare and Medicaid savings, they're against it. A plan of their own, they're even against that, too.

Why, Mr. Speaker? Uniform opposition to all reform, all savings, all ex-

tended coverage? Why? The answer is simple, chilling, and deeply troubling. Senator DEMINT, Republican of South Carolina, put it bluntly: If we're able to stop Obama on health care, it will be his Waterloo. It will break him.

At least the distinguished Senator from South Carolina is honest about the Republican agenda. It's not about a substantive critique. It's about politics, a calculated cynical strategy to derail reform of a broken health care system, a reform that can benefit every American family and small business.

#### NATIONAL THERAPEUTIC RECREATION WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in July we celebrate National Therapeutic Recreation Week. And therapeutic recreation or recreational therapy embraces a definition of health, which includes not only the absence of illness, but extends to enhancement of the physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and leisure development.

This caring profession touches the lives of individuals facing life-changing disease and disability all across the Nation. These services are provided by professionals nationally certified by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification as certified therapeutic recreation specialists.

Every day, countless individuals face rebuilding lives as a result of disease and disability. These individuals benefit from compassionate and cost-effective care of a certified therapeutic recreation specialist. Recreational therapy ultimately aims to improve an individual's functioning and keep them as active, healthy, and independent as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the caring professionals of the therapeutic recreation profession for the services and care that they provide every day.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS MAROVICH, JR.

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a young man who gave his life last week while fighting the Backbone Fire in the Trinity Alps wilderness.

Thomas Marovich, Jr. was just 20 years old. He was in his second year with the U.S. Forest Service assigned to the Modoc National Forest. He was training with the Chester Helitack crew assigned to the Backbone Fire when a training accident claimed his life.

He was born and raised in Hayward, but he had come to Northeastern California to protect our forests, our communities, and our citizens from the